

Claims

1. Particularly shaped articles constituted by silicon
oxide, as such or suitably additivated, prepared by room
5 temperature molding according to a process comprising:
 - preparation of a sol starting from a silicon alcoxide,
or from a silicon alcoxide and at least a precursor of
at least one of the additional elements;
 - hydrolysis of the sol obtained thereby;
 - 10 - addition of colloidal silica;
 - pouring the resulting mixture into the desired mould;
 - sol gelling and fast removal of the solid product;
 - gel drying;
 - 15 - gel densification by means of a thermal treatment at
temperature ranging from 900°C to 1500°C.
2. Articles according to the preceding claim to be used as
preforms for the optical fiber spinning.
3. Articles according to claim 2 characterized by a shape
having a section selected from the ones reported in
20 figure 1.
4. Articles according to claim 2 characterized by a shape
selected from the ones reported in figure 2.